

Ricardo Headlines Men's 2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Award Recipients

Lausanne, Switzerland, October 15, 2007 - Led by Brazilian Ricardo Santos, the top men's players on the 2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour were announced here Monday based on the results of the voting by SWATCH representatives, players, coaches, referees and officials associated with the international Beach Volleyball circuit.

For the second-time in three seasons, Ricardo was recognized as the SWATCH Most Outstanding Player for 2007 season at the year's last double gender event in Brazil at the end of September in Fortaleza. The women's post-season awards will be announced next month after their final event next month in Phuket, Thailand.

The men's SWATCH Most Outstanding Player was selected by representatives from SWATCH and the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), who also selected Igor Kolodinsky as the SWATCH top server for the 2007 season as the Russian twice recorded record serves of 110.0 km/h.

Ricardo, who teamed with Emanuel Rego to win a fifth-straight SWATCH team-of-the-year award by capturing the 2007 point's championship, was also honored for the third-straight year as the top offensive player on the international Beach Volleyball tour. He also finished second in the balloting as the top hitter and blocker, and received mention as the inspirational and top sportsman in 2007. Ricardo was also voted as the 2005 SWATCH top hitter.

"It is always an honor to be recognized as the top player," said the 32-year old Ricardo. "However, I have a great partner that inspires me a lot. I share this award with him like he has shared his awards with me. We are a team that plays off of each other's energy and takes advantage of our individual abilities. We are fortunate to have each other."

A reigning Olympic champion and 2003 SWATCH-FIVB World champion with Emanuel, Ricardo and his partner completed the 2007 season by winning seven gold medals with eight podium placements, nine "final four" appearances, a 75-18 match mark and US\$347,500 in earnings.

The SWATCH most outstanding player at 2007 events in Canada (Montreal), Austria (Klagenfurt), Norway (Kristiansand) and Poland (Stare Jablonki), Ricardo ranks second all-time in gold medals and earnings in the 21-year history of the men's tour behind Emanuel.

In completing his 10th full-season on the SWATCH-FIVB World Tour, Ricardo has compiled 47 FIVB gold medals, 83 podium placements, 94 "final four" appearances and \$1,237,470 in earnings for 131 international events. In addition, Ricardo teamed with Emanuel to capture the 2007 Pan American gold medal this past July in Rio de Janeiro.

Emanuel has 67 FIVB titles and \$1,830,385 in earnings with 121 medals and 130 "final four" finishes in 173 career starts. While Emanuel has compiled an 861-193 match mark in his 14 FIVB seasons with eight different partners, Ricardo has a 650-158 career record with five different teammates.

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The 34-year old Emanuel finished second in the 2007 inspirational voting while placing third in the sportsman, offensive and hitting balloting along with receiving votes as a top defender. He was the most outstanding player (2006), top hitter (2006) and sportsman (2005) in previous SWATCH seasons.

The unanimous pick as the 2007 SWATCH rookie-of-the-year, Kolodinsky posted 46 of the 57 "good" serves over 100.0 km/h this season. The Russian had 16 of the top 17 centre court serves this season with only Germany's Eric Koreng (109.4) breaking the Russian string at the Austrian Grand Slam event.

Russia's Dmitri Barsouk and China's Linyin Xu tied for the most improved player award on the 2007 SWATCH tour. Barsouk and Kolodinsky finished third in SWATCH points behind Emanuel/Ricardo and Brazilians Marcio Araujo/Fabio Magalhaes while placing second at the 2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Championships for the first of two gold medal match appearances this past season.

Xu and Penggen Wu were sixth in SWATCH points and had a grand slam bronze medal finish in Norway where the Chinese defeated Barsouk and Kolodinsky in the third-place match. Xu was second in the sportsman balloting and received votes as a top offensive player. Wu also received votes as a top hitter.

Franco Neto, who at 40 became the oldest player to win a SWATCH-FIVB World Tour event when he and Pedro Cunha teamed to capture a gold medal this past July at Marseille, France, was named the most inspirational and top sportsman for the second-straight season.

Americans Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers, who captured the 2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Championships this past July in Gstaad, Switzerland, combined to finish atop the balloting in three categories. Dalhausser was named the top SWATCH blocker for the second-straight season while being named the best hitter. Dalhausser also won the tour's most improved player in 2006.

Rogers won the top defensive award in 2007 after tying Argentina's Martin Conde for the 2006 honor. Rogers also finished second in the 2007 voting for top setter to Marcio Araujo after sharing the award in 2006 with the Brazilian and winning it outright in 2005.

Two of the women's SWATCH-FIVB World Tour awards have been determined with the other honors to be announced after the Phuket finale. Kerri Walsh of the United States has secured the SWATCH most outstanding player award after being named an event MOP for the fifth-time this at the last FIVB double event of the season at the end of September in Fortaleza.

With a silver medal finish in Fortaleza, Brazilians Juliana Felisberta Silva and Larissa Franca clinched their third-straight SWATCH team-of-the-year award by capturing the 2007 point's championship. The young Brazilians won five of their 13 FIVB appearances this season with \$328,400 in winnings.

2007 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Men's Post-Season Awards

Most Improved Player

- 1, Linyin Xu, China
- 1, Dmitri Barsouk, Russia
- 3, Riccardo Bizzotto, Italy
- 3, Reinder Nummerdor, Netherlands
- 3, Florian Gosch, Austria

Also receiving votes - Renato "Geor" Gomes, Georgia, Alexander Horst, Austria, Bram Ronnes, Netherlands, Shun Zhou, China, Emiel Boersma, Netherlands, Tarjei Skarlund, Norway, Peter Gartmayer, Austria, Pedro Salgado, Brazil, Richard Schuil, Netherlands, Penggen Wu, China, Jorge "Gia" Terceiro, Georgia, Clemens Doppler, Austria, Rivo Vesik, Estonia, Kristjan Kais, Estonia and Jian Li, China.

Most Inspirational

- 1, Franco Neto, Brazil
- 2, Emanuel Rego, Brazil
- 3, Mark Heese, Canada
- 3, Martin Conde, Argentina

Also receiving votes - Stein Metzger, United States, Ricardo Santos, Brazil, Clemens Doppler, Austria, Andrew Schacht, Australia, Reinder Nummerdor, Netherlands, Linyin Xu, China

Rookie of the Year

- 1, Igor Kolodinsky, Russia
- 2, Leonel Munder, Cuba
- 3, Alexander Horst, Austria
- 3, Mischa Urbatzka, Germany

Also receiving votes - Pedro Salgado, Brazil, , Bram Ronnes, Netherlands, Martins Plavins, Latvia

Sportsman of the Year

- 1, Franco Neto, Brazil
- 2, Linyin Xu, China
- 3, Emanuel Rego, Brazil
- 3, Rivo Vesik, Estonia

Also receiving votes - Marcio Araujo, Brazil, Ricardo Santos, Brazil, Kirk Pitman, New Zealand, David Klemperer, Germany, Clemens Doppler, Austria, Todd Rogers, United States, Igor Kolodinsky, Russia, Richard Schuil, Netherlands

Best Defensive Player

- 1, Todd Rogers, United States
- 2, Marcio Araujo, Brazil
- 3, Martin Conde, Argentina
- 3, Kristjan Kais, Estonia

Also receiving votes - Emanuel Rego, Brazil, Francisco Alvarez, Cuba, Mark Heese, Canada, Andrew Schacht, Australia, Harley Marques, Brazil, David Klemperer, Germany

Best Offensive Player

- 1, Ricardo Santos, Brazil
- 2, Harley Marques, Brazil
- 3, Emanuel Rego, Brazil
- 3, Marcio Araujo, Brazil

Also receiving votes - Phil Dalhausser, United States, Andrew Schacht, Australia, Todd Rogers, United States, Clemens Doppler, Austria, Dmitri Barsouk, Russia, Linyin Xu, China

Best Blocker

- 1, Phil Dalhausser, United States
- 2, Ricardo Santos, Brazil
- 3, Fabio Magalhaes, Brazil
- 3, Jonas Reckerman, Germany

Also receiving votes - Florian Gosch, Austria, Joshua Slack, Australia, Mike Lambert, United States, Franco Neto, Brazil

Best Setter

- 1, Marcio Araujo, Brazil
- 2, Todd Rogers, United States
- 3, Jorre Kjemperud, Norway
- 3, Martin Conde, Argentina

Also receiving votes - Phil Dalhausser, United States, Joshua Slack, Australia, Harley Marques, Brazil, Jonas Reckermann, Germany, Mark Heese, Canada

Best Hitter

- 1, Phil Dalhausser, United States
- 2, Ricardo Santos, Brazil
- 3, Emanuel Rego, Brazil

Also receiving votes - Harley Marques, Brazil, Marcio Araujo, Brazil, Fabio Magalhaes, Brazil, Joshua Slack, Australia, Igor Kolodinsky, Russia, Clemens Doppler, Austria, Penggen Wu, China

Men's SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Award Winners

Most Outstanding

2007 - Ricardo Santos, Brazil

2006 - Emanuel Rego, Brazil

2005 - Ricardo, Brazil

Best Blocker

2007 - Phil Dalhausser, United States

2006 - Dalhausser, United States

2005 - Fabio Magalhaes Brazil

Best Defensive Player

2007 - Todd Rogers, United States

2006 - Martin Conde, Argentina and Rogers, United States

2005 - Marcio Araujo, Brazil

Best Hitter

2007 - Phil Dalhausser, United States

2006 - Emanuel, Brazil

2005 - Ricardo, Brazil

Best Offensive Player

2007 - Ricardo, Brazil

2006 - Ricardo, Brazil

2005 - Ricardo, Brazil

Best Server

2007 - Igor Kolodinsky, Russia

2006 - Iver Horrem, Norway

2005 - Conrad Leinemann, Canada

Best Setter

2007 - Marcio Araujo, Brazil

2006 - Marcio Araujo, Brazil and Rogers, United States

2005 - Rogers, United States

Most Improved Player

2007 - Dmitri Barsouk, Russia and Linyin Xu, China

2006 - Dalhausser, United States

2005 - Fabio, Brazil

Most Inspirational

2007 - Franco Neto Brazil

2006 - Franco, Brazil

2005 - Mark Heese, Canada

Sportsperson

2007 - Franco, Brazil

2006 - Franco, Brazil

2005 - Emanuel, Brazil

Team of the Year

2007 - Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil

2006 - Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil

2005 - Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil

Top Rookie

2007 - Igor Kolodinsky, Russia

2006 - Sean Rosenthal, United States

2005 - Matteo Varnier, Italy & Jake Gibb, United States

Men's SWATCH-FIVB World Tour Points Champions

Season	Team, Country
1989-90	Sinjin Smith/Randy Stoklos, United States
1990-91	Smith/Stoklos, United States
1991-92	Smith/Stoklos, United States
1992-93	Smith/Stoklos, United States
1993-94	Franco Neto/Roberto Lopes, Brazil
1994-95	Jan Kvalheim/Bjorn Maaseide, Norway
1995-96	Franco/Roberto Lopes, Brazil
1996	ZeMarco de Melo/Emanuel Rego, Brazil
1997	ZeMarco/Emanuel, Brazil
1998	Para Ferreira /Guilherme Marquez, Brazil

Season	Team, Country
1999	Emanuel/Jose Loiola, Brazil
2000	ZeMarco/Ricardo Santos, Brazil
2001	Emanuel/Tande Ramos, Brazil
2002	Mariano Barcetti/Martin Conde, Argentina
2003	Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil
2004	Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil
2005	Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil
2006	Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil
2007	Emanuel/Ricardo, Brazil